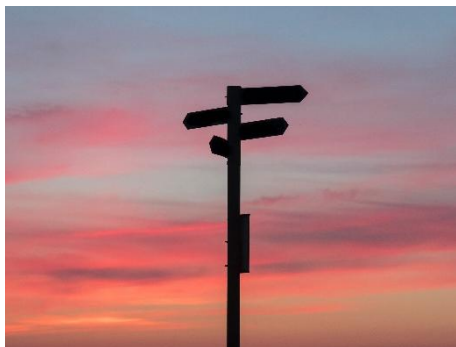


Hello everyone,

This week please pray about vocations: for those in our team who are already living out vocations in ministry in all its forms, for which we are thankful; and for those trying to discern who God may be calling them to be, and how they might best serve his Church and our world.

Two lots of readings, prayers, and notices for you this week as the Team Office will be closed for personal leave until Monday 19th.



Services this week:

For Sunday (11th) we have services of Morning Prayer at Measham, Baptism at Donisthorpe, and Holy Communion with Kids Kingdom at Appleby, all at 10.00am. At 10.30am at Packington there will be a special Songs of Praise service for the 80th anniversary of VE Day, followed by a ploughman's lunch.

On Sunday 18th, at 10.00am there will be services of Holy Communion at Normanton and Sweptstone, Morning Worship with Baptism at Packington, Breakfast Church at Measham, Sunday People at Appleby, and lay led services at Donisthorpe and Norton.

Looking ahead:

Activeage meets on Wednesdays at 11.00am in Measham Church Hall.

On Wednesday 14th, Packington and Ladies Group will be in Packington Church from 2.30pm to enjoy tea and cake as they welcome Charles & Frances de Roemer, who serve in Belgium as our mission partners from Crosslinks, an Anglican Mission Society.

On Wednesday 21st, Sweptstone have Coffee, Cake & Chat from 10.30am to 12.00noon, and Appleby have Community Lunch from 12.30pm, both in their church halls.

Kids Kingdom meet at 9.00am to 11.00am in Appleby Church Hall on both Thursdays (15th & 22nd) before having a break for half term on 29th.

Woodfield Singers meet every Thursday at 7.30pm in Sweptstone Church Hall, all welcome.

Woodfield Team prayer

God our Father, you long to draw all people into your love.

Increase in number your church throughout the Woodfield Team;

deepen us as followers and learners of Christ;

and give us courage to share the good news of your kingdom.

We pray this in the power of your Spirit,

to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 11th May - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Reading for 11th May - John 10.22-30 New International Version (UK)



Further conflict over Jesus' claims

²² Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴ The Jews who were there gathered round him, saying, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

²⁵ Jesus answered, 'I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.'

Collect for Sunday 18th May - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Reading for 18th May - Revelation 21.1-6 New International Version (UK)



A new heaven and a new earth

21 Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death” or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’

⁶ He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.’

Prayers for today:

We pray:

Eternal Lord, you are our creator and sustainer. We bring before you the needs of our church, our world, our communities, and ourselves.

- Everlasting God, we pray for our Bishops, Martyn and Saju, and all Church Leaders; for all the clergy, readers and laity who serve the Woodfield Team. May the Lord bless our Ministry team and guide them in their work as we move forward together.
- Guiding God, we pray for those who are trying to discern your path for them. Help us to see the gifts you have given each of us, inspire us to put these gifts to use in loving others, and fill us with your Spirit that we may be strengthened in your service.
- Creator God, we pray for our troubled world: its peoples and their leaders. We pray for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils and those who are persecuted because of their faith.
- Father God, we pray for all the people that we encounter in our daily lives. Help us to recognise Christ in one another however stressed and tired we and they may be. We ask that you help us to recognise the risen Christ in the face of someone we meet today and give us an opportunity to brighten their day with a smile or a word.
- Loving God, we pray for all those in need; for those who are filled with guilt; who are broken-hearted; who are confused and afraid; or saddened because a relationship has broken down. We pray for all suffering from illness, particularly those requesting our prayers and give joyful thanks for those on the road to recovery.
- Merciful God, we pray for all who have died, especially those who encouraged us in our faith by their example. As we pray for them, may they in turn continue to pray for us that we may stay true to our faith and give the same kind of example ourselves to others.
- Good Shepherd, guide us this week, help us to think about where we are now, and where we are going; to listen for your voice and what it might be saying to us in the midst of everything going on in our lives and our world as we look forward to a time when you will make all things new.

Amen.